

workers, slave wages, and unsafe working conditions have become all too common.

China, the Communist regime, has become China, the world's largest one-company town where workers are interchangeable, replaceable parts and where members of the Communist Party are its shareholders.

The United States as purportedly the world leader in human rights—we talk about exporting democracy, we brag about our values, yet out business is with encouragement and incentives—unbelievably enough, sometimes from our own Government—even though we say we are the world leader in human rights. The United States should not be endorsing in any way the brutal and horrific policies of the Chinese Government. Again, the United States, by our actions by the Government and by business do not seem so interested oftentimes in human rights in China in spite of what we say. We should not be sacrificing our moral compass at the altar of the dollar. We do that way too often.

I met with Rabiya Kadeer, the Uyghur dissident leader and head of the Uyghur American Association. She told me of her time in prison for political advocacy on behalf of her people. She spent 6 long years in prison, arrested in 1999 on her way to a meeting with foreign activists and leaders. She told me of her children who either live in fear or live in prison because of her advocacy on behalf of basic freedoms for the 12 or 13 million Uyghur people. She told me of her exile. She is not allowed to return to her native country.

We need the strength to stand up to rather than apologize for China's brutal regime. This has been the systematic policy of a highly efficient and powerful central government.

The Chinese Uyghurs have long fought for more autonomy from Beijing and greater freedom to practice their Muslim religion.

This is not a new policy. We have seen the same in the Zinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region where ethnic Uyghur people have been systematically relocated and repressed. Their Turkic language is prohibited, their women are placed into forced labor, especially young women taken out of the Autonomous Region to other parts of China, in many cases to be slave labor, forced labor, in other cases to be sex slaves, and their political leaders are jailed. Yet we allow China into the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, and made them a preferred trading partner.

Communities across America feel the reverberations of this policy. Not only does it blacken our name as a country when China violates every kind of human rights we care about, but then it affects our country in so many other ways.

We have lost more than 3 million manufacturing jobs across this country since President Bush has been President. Many of these jobs have been

eliminated because of government-subsidized imports from China, because of cheating on currency rules, and because of direct off shoring to countries such as China.

China gives their manufacturers that unfair competitive advantage by manipulating its currency and providing massive subsidies to its industry. We know all that. American companies have been complicit by hiring Chinese subcontractors and forcing those subcontractors to continue to cut costs, meaning contaminated vitamins, contaminated pharmaceuticals, and dangerous toxic lead-based paint on toys.

I am submitting a resolution today calling on the Chinese to free the Kadeer children, free the Uyghur political prisoners, and end the political, religious, and ethnic repression in that part of China.

I ask my colleagues to take a look at this resolution, to meet with Ms. Kadeer and to join me in working to bring the atrocities against the Uyghur people to an end. Instead of welcoming China, celebrating China, and trading with China on their terms, as we all talk about the great quadrennial events of the international Olympic Games, we should be helping China's repressed. We should not indulge China its abuses. It dishonors our own values.

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—EX-PRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INOUE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. RES. 575

Whereas the veterans of the United States have been vital to the small business enterprises of the United States;

Whereas the Nation should honor its veterans and in particular those veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during active service with the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Congress passed the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50; 113 Stat. 233) to assist veterans interested in starting or expanding small businesses;

Whereas the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 required the President to establish a goal of awarding not less than 3 percent of the total value of all Federal prime contracts and subcontracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses;

Whereas Congress approved the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-183; 117 Stat. 2651) to expand benefits for veterans;

Whereas the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 gave agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurement contracts for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses;

Whereas President George W. Bush issued Executive Order 13360 (60 Fed. Reg. 62,549) in 2004, calling on Federal agencies to more effectively implement the legislative changes to the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) included in the Veterans Entrepreneur-

ship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 and the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003;

Whereas, despite those Acts of Congress and the issuance of Executive Order 13360 by the President, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses still struggle to receive a fair share of Federal contracts; and

Whereas Federal agencies have consistently fallen short of the statutory contracting goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses set by the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for its veterans and veteran entrepreneurs; and

(2) calls on Federal agencies to work to improve Federal contracting opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution that is cosponsored by Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator INOUE, Senator AKAKA, Senator COCHRAN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator CRAIG, and Senator SNOWE.

I am submitting this resolution to honor veteran entrepreneurs and calling on the Federal Government to improve Federal contracting opportunities for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses. They call them SDVOSBs.

These veteran entrepreneurs have given so much to our country, and the Federal Government needs to honor them by utilizing their array of valuable skills.

Almost 9 years ago, Congress passed the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, which directed the President to establish a goal of awarding at least 3 percent of Federal contracts to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses.

In subsequent years, however, the Federal agencies have consistently failed to reach that statutory goal. In the most recent official government-wide report, contract awards for service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses made up less than 1 percent of all Federal contracts.

As I travel home this weekend to observe Memorial Day, I will have the great honor of being accompanied by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James Peake, who has accepted my invitation to visit our State.

Dr. Peake, a decorated combat veteran and former Army Surgeon General, is an exceptional American. An important challenge for the VA will be to provide adequate VA health facilities and services to veterans in rural areas.

Dr. Peake's decision to travel from our Nation's Capital to Alaska on this important holiday shows his commitment to all veterans, particularly those who come from rural areas.